

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11921 01 OF 02 262145Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07  
EA-10 /101 W  
-----130342 262230Z /20

R 262134Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2292  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 11921

USEEC

E.O.11652:GDS  
TAGS:UR, ETRN, EWWT, EEC, GW, UK  
SUBJECT: SOVIET SENSITIVITY ON MARITIME MATTERS

SUMMARY: THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF GROWING SOVIET SENSITIVITY OVER WESTERN CRITICISM AND PROSPECTIVE COUNTER-MEASURES IN MARITIME FIELD. MINISTER OF THE MARITIME FLEET (MORFLOT) GUSHENKO IS SCHEDULED TO GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 29 WHICH WILL APPARENTLY PROVIDE SOME STATISTICS ABOUT SOVIET PRODUCTION, AS WELL AS A DEFENSE OF SOVIET POLICIES. CHIEF OF THE MINISTRY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIVISION AVERIN TOOK OCCASION OF LUNCHEON WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS TO RIDICULE WESTERN CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET DOMINATION IN THAT AREA. MOREOVER, TASS ISSUED AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMMENTARY MAY 25 WHICH HINTED AT UNSPECIFIED COUNTERMEASURES WHICH SOVIETS MIGHT TAKE IN RESPONSE TO RESTRICTIONS PLANNED BY WEST.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11921 01 OF 02 262145Z

1. IN MAY 25 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION ON SOVIET MARITIME DEVELOPMENTS, IGOR AVERIN, CHIEF OF MORFLOT'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, MENTIONED THAT MINISTER GUZHENKO WOULD BE HOLDING PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 29, INCLUDING WESTERN PRESS, AND WOULD BE PROVIDING SOME STATISTICAL EVIDENCE TO DEFEND SOVIET MARITIME POLICY. AVERIN TOOK STANDARD LINE THAT WESTERN FEARS ABOUT USSR ARE EXAGGER-

ATED OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO FACTS. HE RIDICULED ALLEGED WESTERN ASSERTION THAT FIVE FINNISH-BUILT AUTOMOBILE FERRIES PLYING BLACK SEA PORTS OF USSR ARE CAPABLE OF LANDING TANKS. AVERIN SAID THAT USSR HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, ADDED ONLY TWO RO-RO VESSELS TO ITS FLEET IN 1977 AND WOULD BE ADDING ONLY ONE IN 1978. AVERIN REFERRED TO ALLEGED DESIRE OF FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION TO KEEP SOVIET LINES OUT OF ATLANTIC CONFERENCES UNTIL U.S. CAN ADOPT RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION. (HIS ASSISTANT, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, ALSO MENTIONED THIS DRAFT LEGISLATION BUT DECLINED TO SPECULATE ABOUT SOVIET REACTION IN CASE IT IS ADOPTED.) AVERIN ALSO BLAMED DCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM FOR PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN SHIPMENTS OF AMMONIA AND SUPERPHOSPHORIC ACID - SPECIFICALLY ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO GIVE LONG-TERM GUARANTEES - BUT SUBSEQUENTLY ADDED SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION, SOYUZHIMEKSPORT, AS CONTRIBUTING TO IMPASSE BY CONCENTRATING ON NARROW COMMERCIAL INTEREST (LOWER MARITIME RATES).

2. AVERIN HAD CRITICAL WORD FOR JAPANESE, WHO HE SAID WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE SIBERIAN LAND BRIDGE BUT ALSO WERE CONTRIBUTING TO DEVELOPMENT OF PORT OF VOSTOCHNIY. SHIPPERS AND MERCHANTS TENDED TO TALK WITH DIFFERENT VOICES, AVERIN SAID, SUGGESTING THAT JAPANESE DEVELOP A CONSISTENT NATIONAL POLICY.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 11921 01 OF 02 262145Z

3. WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO FRG, AVERIN NOTED THAT WEST GERMANY IS ONLY EUROPEAN MARITIME STATE WITH WHICH USSR HAS NO MARITIME AGREEMENT. AVERIN SAID THAT ABOUT EIGHTY PERCENT OF FRG-SOVIET TRADE TRAVELS BY SEA, BUT CLAIMED THAT SOVIETS GET ONLY A BIT MORE THAN HALF OF THE FREIGHT TRAFFIC. ACCORDING TO HIM, BERLIN CLAUSE PROBLEM IS HOLDING UP MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH FRG, EVEN THOUGH SOVIETS ACCEPT BERLIN SEAMEN AND BERLIN-REGISTERED VESSELS IF THEY ARE FLYING THE WEST GERMAN FLAG.

4. WE ALSO CALL ATTENTION TO AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TASS COMMENTARY ENTITLED "THIS STRANGE 'SEASICKNESS'" (ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS TEXT). WRITTEN BY TASS ECONOMIC COMMENTATOR SERGEI STOKLITSKY, THE ARTICLE TAKES WESTERN SHIPPING COUNTRIES TO TASK FOR LEGISLATION SUGGESTED, PROPOSED, AND ADOPTED, TO COUNTER SUCH SOVIET MARITIME PRACTICES AS RATE CUTTING. IN CONCLUSION, STOKLITSKI THREATENS THESE CIRCLES WITH UNSPECIFIED COUNTERMEASURES, WARNING VAGUELY THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS "STRANGE SICKNESS" COULD BE INCALCULABLY DANGEROUS, AND THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF CAUSING A "WHOLE SERIES OF REPLY MEASURES,

WHICH, IN THEIR TURN, MAY HAVE AN UTTERLY UNFAVORABLE  
EFFECT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS  
CONTACTS."

5. COMMENT: IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF  
GUZHENKO'S PRESS CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL  
STATISTICAL INFORMATION OR WILL SPELL OUT POSSIBLE  
COUNTERMEASURES SOVIETS MAY HAVE IN MIND TO DEFLECT WESTERN  
CONCERN ABOUT THE GROWTH OF THE SOVIET MARITIME FLEET.  
SOVIETS EARN SUBSTANTIAL SUMS OF CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY FROM  
SHIPPING, A FACT WHICH NOT ONLY INCREASES THEIR OWN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11921 02 OF 02 262147Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07  
EA-10 /101 W

-----130370 270219Z /20

R 262134Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2293  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 11921

INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT - ASIDE FROM ITS STRATEGIC  
IMPLICATIONS - BUT MAY PROVIDE THEM WITH A BARGAINING  
CHIP WITH THOSE WESTERN COUNTRIES WITH WHICH  
THEY CHARACTERISTICALLY RUN SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE COMMODITY  
TRADE BALANCES.

6. COMMENT: WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE COUNTERMEASURES,  
WE UNDERSTAND THAT AVERIN, WHILE DISCUSSING THE CABINET'S  
DECISION (BONN 9173) DURING THE FRG-SOVIET MARITIME  
EXPERTS MEETING IN BONN IN MAY, REMINDED FRG EXPERTS OF  
SOVIET RETALIATORY MEASURES AGAINST FRANCE IN 1936, WHEN  
SOVIET UNION STOPPED OIL EXPORTS TO FRANCE, IN RESPONSE TO  
FRENCH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. MATLOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MARINE TRANSPORTATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MOSCOW11921  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780223-0816  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MOSCOW USEEC  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780514/aaaaalrn.tel  
**Line Count:** 168  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 22dab695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2550820  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET SENSITIVITY ON MARITIME MATTERS SUMMARY: THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF GROWING SOVIET SENSITIVITY OVER WESTERN CRITICISM AND PROSPECTIVE  
**TAGS:** ETRN, EWWT, UR, GE, UK, EEC  
**To:** BONN BRUSSELS  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/22dab695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014